

REMARKS:

This paper is herewith filed in response to the Examiner's Office Action mailed on September 20, 2010 for the above-captioned U.S. Patent Application. This office action is a rejection of claims 31-32, 35-36, 38, 40-41, 49-50, 52, 55-56, 58-60, 62-65, 67-68, 70-71, 73-74, 77, 82-84, 98-102, 105, and 128 of the application.

Further, the Applicant notes that the Examiner has indicated that claims 52, 61, and 103 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Applicant thanks the Examiner for this indication of allowance.

Claims 31, 32, 38, 40, 41, 49, 55, 62, 63, 98, 102, and 105 have been amended. Claims 61, 82-84, and 103 have been cancelled without disclaimer or prejudice.. Support for the amendments can be found at least in paragraph [0010] and [0045] of the Application as filed. No new matter is added.

To expedite allowance and without expressly or impliedly admitting that the Applicants agree with the Examiner's rationale for rejecting the claims, the independent claims 31, 49, 55, 82, and 98 have been amended as suggested by the Examiner (see bottom of page 2 of the Office Action). More specifically, independent claims 31, 49, and 55 have been amended to include language of allowed claim 61, and independent claim 98 has been amended to include language of allowed dependent claim 103.

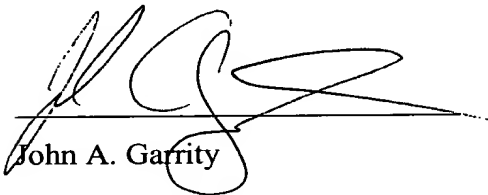
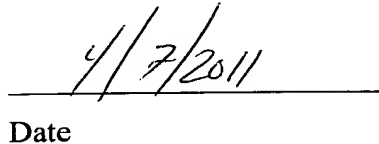
Further, for at least the reason that claims 32, 35-36, 38, 40-41, 64-65, and 128; claims 50, 52, 70-71; claims 56, 58-60, and 62-63; and claims 99-102 depend from claims 31, 49, 55, and 98, respectively, these claims are similarly allowable.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that that the Examiner allow all of claims 31-32, 35-36, 38, 40-41, 49-50, 52, 55-56, 58-60, 62-65, 70-71, 73-74, 98-102, 105, and

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128 now present in the application. Should any unresolved issue remain, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the Applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted:


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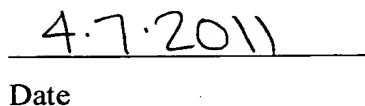
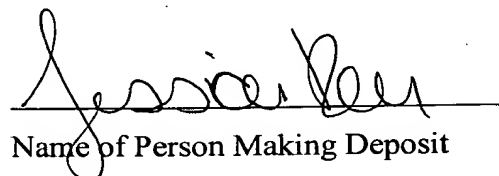
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. BOX 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.


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